

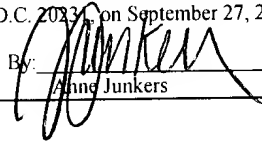


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ZIMMEL
Serial No.: 09/872,772
Filed: JUNE 1, 2001
Title: BULKHEAD ADAPTER WITH OPTICAL FIBER FOR SIGNAL ATTENUATION

Examiner: UNKNOWN
Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN
Docket: 2316.1424US01

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 27, 2001.

By: 
Anne Junkers

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

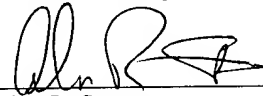
Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

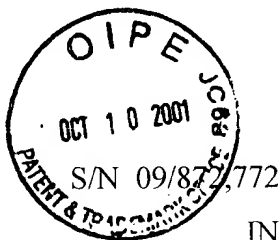
- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 7 References
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: 
Name: Alan R. Stewart
Reg. No.: 47,974
ARS/amj





#4 IDS
1/10/02
C. McKinney
PATENT

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By

Anne Junkers

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.



Exhibit A is a copy of ADC Telecommunications, Inc., Network Connectivity catalog, dated February, 2001. Included in Exhibit A are the front and rear covers of the catalog, the table of contents and the pages of the catalog relevant to optical fiber connectors and attenuators.

Exhibits B and C are printed from an on-line catalog of a vendor of optical fiber signal attenuation devices. The content of these exhibits are admitted as prior art as of the date of printing of the pages, May 17, 2001.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

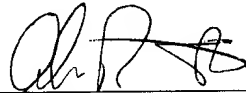
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Dated: 9/27/01

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

Signed: 

Name: Alan R. Stewart

Reg. No.: 47,974

DGS/amj